

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are being canceled.

Claims 3 and 15 are being amended, whereby the amendments to these claims are not believed to affect the scope of those claims (but rather they are made to place these claims in better form for U.S. patent practice).

Claims 16, 17 and 18 are being added.

This amendment adds and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-18 are now pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 5-8 and 11-14.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 9-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,101 to Black. This rejection is traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Please note that the U.S. patent application filing date for Black is March 24, 2000. Even though the front page of the Black patent lists ten (10) different provisional patent applications with different filing dates as Related U.S. applications, a patent application can only go back as much as one year before the U.S. patent application filing date for domestic priority purposes. Thus, at best, the Black patent can only go back to the July 16, 1999 provisional patent application filing date (assuming that the July 16, 1999 provisional patent application contains sufficient disclosure to provide such support).

Submitted herewith is a verified translation of Japanese priority application JP 10-261502, filed September 16, 1998, in order to perfect the priority date of September 16, 1998. Accordingly, with this filing of the verified translation of the Japanese priority document, Black is no longer prior art against this application.

Therefore, claims 1-4, 9-10 and 15 cannot be anticipated by Black.

New claims 16-18 have also been added. New claim 16 recites that the user's individual information includes work progressive information that provides information of how much said user accomplished with regards completion of an operation that is performed by utilizing said device when said device was suspended. New claim 17 recites that the step for selecting said individual information corresponds to an identified user based on matching the inputted fingerprint with a plurality of stored fingerprints that are stored in correspondence with a plurality of user's individual information as a result of multiple operations of the storing step, in the case of reception of instruction of resumption. New claim 18 recites a step for resuming operation of the device at an exact place within an application of the device that was previously being run by the user when the instruction of suspension was initiated.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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